DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 429 046 SP 038 375

AUTHOR Whitesel, Russ
TITLE New Law Creating a Professional Standards Council for Teachers (1997 Wisconsin Act 298). Information Memorandum 98-9.
INSTITUTION Wisconsin State Legislative Council, Madison.
PUB DATE 1998-06-22
NOTE 7p.
PUB TYPE Reports - Descriptive (141)
EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Educational Legislation; Elementary Secondary Education; Higher Education; *Preservice Teacher Education; State Legislation; *State Standards; *Teacher Certification; *Teacher Competencies; Teachers
IDENTIFIERS *Wisconsin

ABSTRACT

This information memorandum describes the provisions of 1997 Wisconsin Act 298 relating to the creation of a Professional Standards Council for Teachers. This legislation was initially introduced as 1997 Senate Bill 364 by the Joint Legislative Council upon the recommendation of the Special Committee on Teacher Preparation, Licensure and Regulation. Section 1 of the memorandum presents key provisions of the Act, which include creation of a statutory Professional Standards Council for Teachers, membership of the Professional Standards Council, and duties of the council. Section 2 of the memorandum presents background of the 1997 Wisconsin Act 298, explaining that the Special Committee on Teacher Preparation, Licensure and Regulation determined that the Department of Public Instruction did not have a statutory mechanism to review, propose, or revise teacher preparation policies, so it recommended a Professional Standards Council for Teachers to assist the State Superintendent in improving teacher preparation, licensure, and regulation. Section 2 also details two of the key provisions of 1997 Wisconsin Act 298 (council membership and council duties). (SM)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED 429 046

NEW LAW CREATING A PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COUNCIL FOR TEACHERS (1997 WISCONSIN ACT 298)

Information Memorandum 98-9

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE AND DISSEMINATE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

D. Stutz

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

1

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

☐ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

SP038375

Wisconsin Legislative Council Staff
One East Main Street, Suite 401
Madison, Wisconsin
Telephone: (608) 266-1304

June 22, 1998

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Information Memorandum 98-9*

NEW LAW CREATING A PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COUNCIL FOR TEACHERS (1997 WISCONSIN ACT 298)

INTRODUCTION

This Information Memorandum describes the provisions of 1997 Wisconsin Act 298 ("the Act"), relating to creating a Professional Standards Council for Teachers.

This legislation was initially introduced as 1997 Senate Bill 364 by the Joint Legislative Council upon the recommendation of the Special Committee on Teacher Preparation, Licensure and Regulation.

A complete report on the work of the Special Committee is contained in Joint Legislative Council Report No. 5 to the 1997 Legislature entitled, *Legislation on Teacher Preparation, Licensure and Regulation* (December 3, 1997).

Copies of 1997 Wisconsin Act 298 may be obtained from the Documents Room, Lower Level, One East Main Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53702; telephone: (608) 266-2400.

This Information Memorandum is divided into the following parts:

Page

A. Key Provisions of Act 298 2

B. Background; 1997 Wisconsin Act 298, Relating to Creating a Professional Standards Council for Teachers 2

1. Background 2

2. Description of Act 3

* This Information Memorandum was prepared by Russ Whitesel, Senior Staff Attorney, Legislative Council Staff.

A. KEY PROVISIONS OF ACT 298

Key provisions of 1997 Wisconsin Act 298 include the following:

- ***Creation of a Statutory Professional Standards Council for Teachers***

The Act creates a statutory professional standards council for teachers in the Department of Public Instruction (DPI).

- ***Membership of Professional Standards Council***

The Act sets forth the membership of the 19-member council and the procedure for appointment by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and confirmation by the State Senate.

- ***Duties of the Council***

The Act specifies the duties and responsibilities of the council.

B. BACKGROUND; 1997 WISCONSIN ACT 298, RELATING TO CREATING A PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COUNCIL FOR TEACHERS

This Part of the Memorandum provides background information on, and a description of, 1997 Wisconsin Act 298.

1. Background

The attention of state and federal policymakers has recently focused on teacher preparation and training. Increasingly, there is a realization that the success of other educational reforms such as testing, higher academic standards for students and greater accountability is dependent upon the skill, knowledge and preparation of teachers.

The National Commission on Teaching and America's Future recently issued an important report on teaching: *What Matters Most: Teaching for America's Future.** This report advocates the creation of an integrated system of teacher recruitment, preparation, professional development and accountability. Representatives from the commission made a formal presentation to the Special Committee on Teacher Preparation, Licensure and Regulation at its initial meeting.

---

*National Commission on Teaching and America's Future, *What Matters Most: Teaching for America's Future*, September 1996.

The Special Committee also received substantial testimony from federal, state and local sources on the need to approach teacher preparation, licensure and regulation in a systematic and integrated manner.

The Special Committee determined that the DPI did not have a statutory mechanism to review, propose or revise teacher preparation policies. A proposal was made to establish a board separate from the State Superintendent with extensive independent authority to regulate the teaching profession. After extensive review of the constitutional and policy ramifications of this proposal, the Special Committee determined that the preferable approach would be to establish a statutory Professional Standards Council for Teachers to assist the State Superintendent in improving teacher preparation, licensure and regulation.

2. Description of Act

1997 Wisconsin Act 298 contains the following provisions:

a. Council Membership

SECTION 1 of the Act creates a statutory professional standards council for teachers in the DPI. The members of the council are each appointed by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. The council consists of the following 19 members:

1. Two persons licensed and actively employed as elementary school teachers in the public schools, recommended by the largest statewide labor organization representing teachers.

2. Two persons licensed and actively employed as public middle school, junior high school or senior high school teachers in the public schools, recommended by the largest statewide labor organization representing teachers.

3. Two persons licensed and actively employed as pupil services professionals, in the public schools, recommended by the largest statewide labor organization representing teachers.

4. One person licensed and actively employed as a special education teacher, in the public schools, recommended by the largest statewide labor organization representing teachers.

5. Two additional persons licensed and actively employed as teachers in the public schools recommended by the largest statewide labor organization representing teachers.

6. One person licensed as a teacher and actively employed in a private school, recommended by the Wisconsin Association of Nonpublic Schools.

7. One public school district administrator, recommended by the Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators.

8. One public school principal, recommended by the Association of Wisconsin School Administrators.

9. One faculty member of a department or school of education in the University of Wisconsin (UW) System, recommended by the President of the UW System.

10. One faculty member of a department of school of education in a private college in Wisconsin, recommended by the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU).

11. One additional faculty member appointed from the lists of persons recommended by the UW and the WAICU.

12. Two members of a public school boards recommended by the Wisconsin Association of School Boards.

13. One person who is a parent with a child in a public school.

14. One person who is a student in a teacher preparation program located in this state that leads to initial licensure as a teacher.

For each vacancy on the council, except for those described in item 11., above, the group or entity authorized to recommend members is required to submit the names of three qualified persons to the State Superintendent. Each council member is subject to confirmation by the State Senate. Where no entity is designated to make recommendations, the appointment is made by the State Superintendent, with confirmation by the State Senate.

Each council member serves a three-year term, except for the student member who serves a two-year term.

The council is required to meet on a regular basis and must meet at least twice each year.

The Act also provides a procedure for the filling of any vacancy on the council by the State Superintendent.

SECTION 3 of the Bill contains provisions to implement the staggered terms for the members of the council.

b. Council Duties

SECTION 2 of the Act sets forth the duties of the council. The primary focus of the council is on classroom teaching. The purpose of the council is to ensure quality in the profession of teaching by recommending to the State Superintendent a set of high standards for licensing that maintains quality classroom teaching, addresses the changing needs for the instruction of pupils in the state and provides for the continual professional development of teachers.

The council is required to do all of the following:

1. Advise the State Superintendent on standards for certification and licensure of teachers, including initial licensure and maintenance and renewal of licenses, to ensure the effective teaching of a relevant curriculum.

2. Propose to the State Superintendent standards for evaluating and approving teacher education programs, including continuing education programs.

3. Provide to the State Superintendent an ongoing assessment of the complexities of teaching and the status of the teaching profession in Wisconsin.

4. Propose to the State Superintendent policies and practices for school districts and teacher organizations to utilize in developing effective teaching.

5. Propose to the State Superintendent standards and criteria for the revocation of a teaching license.

6. Propose to the State Superintendent ways to recognize excellence in teaching, including the assessment administered by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and master educator licensure in the state and other programs and to assist teachers to achieve excellence in teaching.

7. Propose to the State Superintendent effective peer assistance and peer mentoring models, including evaluation systems, and alternative teacher dismissal procedures for consideration by school district boards and employe unions.

8. Review and make recommendations regarding administrative rules proposed by the department that relate to teacher preparation, licensure and regulation.

9. Propose to the State Superintendent alternative procedures for the preparation and licensure of teachers.

10. Report annually to the appropriate standing committees of the Legislature on the activities and effectiveness of the council.

RW:jt:ksm:lah:jt:rv;jt;ksm